

STELLA WRIGHT HOMES HOPE VI

"TRANSFORMING TODAY'S VISION INTO TOMORROW'S REALITY"

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Transforming Today's Vision Into Tomorrow's Reality

As a former Stella Wright Homes (SWH) resident, the Newark Housing Authority and the HOPE VI staff are committed to providing you quality housing and quality services that lead to self-sufficiency. In this issue are the stories of former Stella Wright Homes residents who are using the services of the HOPE VI professional staff to make a difference in their lives. We also have reports on two former SWH youth.

The residents profiled serve as reminders that success begins with your efforts. The HOPE VI staff and its consultants (LST and North Ward Center) await your call.

The Staff

Editor's Note: If you have good news to share with other former Stella Wright Homes residents, call Nellie Dixon at 973-430-2182.

NHA TAKES NEXT STEPS IN STELLA WRIGHT HOMES \$200 MILLION REDEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The Newark Housing Authority (NHA) continues to work with former Stella Wright Homes residents, the Mayor, City officials and staff, and other stakeholders as part of the redevelopment planning and design process. Having embraced the concepts of the "new urbanism" as a design model, in November NHA requested interested developers to prepare proposals detailing how they would implement the design standards.

Using the input presented from former residents and other stakeholders, the developers were asked to define the new community they would propose, complete with housing integrated into a community of parks and open spaces with facilities for community services.

According to Morris Warner, Deputy Assistant Executive Director, "the responses from interested developers were enthusiastic. They understood the potential impact of a project of this magnitude upon



Former Stella Wright Homes residents have been actively involved at every stage of the design planning process. Shown above is an architectural rendering for a typical single-family row house.

future development within the Central Ward and in Newark and wholeheartedly wanted to be a part of the process."

The proposals were submitted in December and are currently being reviewed by an evaluation committee carefully selected to ensure a knowledgeable, fair and impartial review process. Former Stella Wright Homes residents, NHA staff with expertise in finance and contracts, and City staff comprise the committee.

(Continued on page 2)



Shown here is a concept drawing for a public safety complex at Irvine Turner Boulevard and Spruce that would include a new police station, community space, and library with a 24-hour day care center across the street.



WE'RE MAKING PROGRESS

- Six former Stella Wright Homes residents completed Phase II of the Women & Minorities Construction Training Program and are set to continue their studies in the construction trades at Essex County Vocational Schools with a \$1,500 scholarship to cover the training costs. (See back page, "Congratulations".)
- Nineteen former Stella Wright Homes residents have been employed in the Partners In Pride (PIP) program—12 by the City of Newark and seven (7) by the Newark Housing Authority. They are working to beautify the surroundings at NHA and public spaces throughout Newark.
- More than 40 former Stella Wright Homes families received Christmas gifts for their children through the NHA's "Adopt-A-Child" program that was managed by HOPE VI Resident Liaison Doris McCray-Crank.

FROM THE DESK OF THE ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The design planning process continues for the Stella Wright Homes redevelopment project as discussed on page 1 (see "NHA Takes Next Steps In Stella Wright Homes Redevelopment Process"). My staff and I are privileged to see these beautiful colorful sketches daily as we are presented concept drawings on how a new public safety building could be incorporated or how the proposed Central High School could fit so well nestled among the new housing. We are delighted

to see that those of you who have visited our office share the same joy that we sense as you recognize the full potential of this major development to revitalize the Stella Wright area. Throughout this issue are some of the images that represent your vision for a rebuilt neighborhood. If you're in the area of 57 Sussex, feel free to stop on the third floor to view these drawings first hand.

Equally important to us is our continuous effort to engage you in assessing your

needs and helping you to identify how to fulfill them through our supportive services efforts. We are delighted that some of you have taken advantage of the job training, home ownership, and job placement initiatives we've led. We encourage all of you to become fully engaged in this process. The rebuilding of Stella Wright Homes is totally about improving the quality of your life. Get involved and help us create change.

Karen Torian

Call Doris today to win.

WIN A FREE TRIP

Resident Liaison Doris McCray-Crank has arranged four one-day trips for former Stella Wright Homes residents to visit HOPE VI developments in Camden, Patterson, Jersey City and Elizabeth. At each site, residents will have an opportunity to view the construction (either in pro-

gress or completed) and to talk to housing authority residents about their experiences.

"I think it is a wonderful opportunity for us to see the vision of other residents for HOPE VI," said Doris.

The trips are planned for

Saturdays in March and April. **Lunch and transportation will be provided.** Each trip will include about 45 residents, so call Doris today to ensure that you will be among the lucky winners. Doris can be reached at 973-430-2249.

NHA TAKES NEXT STEPS IN STELLA WRIGHT HOMES \$200 MILLION REDEVELOPMENT PROCESS

(Continued from page 1)

The "new urbanism" design standards will be the guiding principles to ensure that the ideas received become part of the master plan for the redevelopment of Stella Wright Homes into a premier new neighborhood that will become a key ingredient to continued economic progress in the City of Newark.



THE HOPE VI PLANS INCORPORATE THE PROPOSED CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, ON THE FORMER G.E. SITE, INTO THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

HELPFUL HINTS FROM SHEILA: ENERGY CONSERVATION

By now you've probably gotten your first winter heating bill and your head is spinning in amazement at the price of home heating. Don't despair! There are ways you can cut your heating bill and still enjoy a warm, comfortable home.

To make this home heating conservation plan work, however, everybody in the family has to understand your goal and has to support it.

One way to gain support is to make sure that they understand that saving energy means saving money!

Here are seven ways to cut your heating bill this winter. *Note—You should check with your landlord or housing management before making any energy saving installations.*

1) Check your thermostat. Set your thermo-

stat as low as is comfortable in the winter. If it is not a programmable electronic model, it may be worthwhile to replace it. A programmable thermostat can save money by automatically adjusting the temperature when you are away from the house or sleeping, thus eliminating wasteful energy usage.

2) Seal up your house. Install weather stripping around windows and doors. Caulk cracks or openings in the siding, and consider installing or repairing storm windows and doors. An equally effective and less costly method is to tape a heavy-duty, clear plastic sheet to the inside of your windows.

3) Take advantage of the sun's warmth. Keep the draperies, blinds and shades on your south-facing win-



dows open during the day to allow the sunlight to enter your home.

4) Consider ceiling fans. If you can afford to do so, install ceiling fans. In the winter if you run them in reverse they will send the warm air back down to the living area. *Note—You should check with your landlord or housing management before making any energy saving installations.*

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NHA COMMISSIONER'S CORNER:

Commissioner Ida Clark, who is also president of the tenant association at Foushee Towers, has been involved in the planning process for the HOPE VI Revitalization Project from its inception. She says she is pleased with what she has seen of the conceptual plans, including the integration into the planning of a new parking lot at Foushee Towers and space for her garden. "My garden is my life," she says.

"I think the different types of homes in the new neighborhood that is proposed will make the community a better place for us seniors," she says. "To be in the midst of this new development without high rises will make us feel safer as we go in and out," she added. "Our safety is

very important to us."

Commissioner Clark says she has discussed the plans with many of the residents of Foushee Towers and they are pleased to see that planning is underway. "They just want to see it come into effect," she says in describing their responses to the planning process. "I've assured them they are beginning to move along," she adds.

Commissioner Clark currently serves as Vice Chairperson of the Board and has previously chaired it. She joined the Board of Commissioners in 1987 and says she enjoys representing the concerns of the residents—especially the seniors.

STELLA WRIGHT A BIT OF HISTORY

Stella Wright Homes was built in 1959 and it opened to wide acclaim and enthusiasm. Built to solve a major housing shortage in the City of Newark in what was then the Third Ward, the seven 13-story high rises were a welcome sight. They provided an impressive image rising above Newark's skyline while on the streets below local merchants—from fish sellers to hardware dealers—greeted the new residents and hawked their wares. Prince Street and Springfield Avenue provided all the necessities of life such that most seldom had a need to even go downtown. The streets bustled with folks shopping to buy fresh vegetables, chicken and fish. Many of these merchants remained in the area until as late as 1965 before closing their doors in the face of changing economic times.

Resident Liaison Doris McCray-Crank, a 30-year resident of Stella Wright and former Newark Housing Authority Commissioner, remembers well the start of the riots in 1967 that challenged the stability of the Stella Wright community and changed the landscape dramatically. "The need for affordable housing in the midst of Urban Renewal demolition put an extra burden on the NHA and the City to provide affordable housing," she says. "These changes and the need for social changes led to the unrest that culminated with the riots of 1967."

In the next issue, Doris will recall the riots and the years that followed.



"To make your home heating conservation plan work, everybody in the family has to understand your goal and has to support it."

*Sheila Scudder
Case Manager*

HELPFUL HINTS FROM SHEILA: ENERGY CONSERVATION

(Continued from page 3)

5) Use kitchen, bath and other ventilating fans wisely. In just one hour these fans can pull out a houseful of warm air. Turn fans off as soon as they have done their job.

6) Control the humidity levels in your home.

For comfort in winter, your home's humidity levels should range from 30 to 50 percent. When the air becomes too dry, you need higher heat to feel warm. To increase the humidity, you can buy a humidifier which puts water vapor back into the air.

7) Review the use of energy in other areas of the house and make changes to reduce their usage where possible.

Lighting: Turn off lights when not in use. Use lower watt bulbs where possible. And consider fluorescent bulbs for light fixtures—they are more expensive but they pay for themselves by saving energy over time.

Appliances: Read the owner's manuals to see how best to reduce energy usage on your dishwasher, refrigerator, stove, washer and dryer.

Finally, if you have tried to conserve energy but are still struggling to meet your energy payments, here are some energy assistance programs you might call to see if you qualify:

PSE&G Equal Payment Plan (1-800-436-7734) allows you to set up a plan to pay the same amount each month.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (1-800-510-3102) assists income-eligible families with their heating bills.

NJShares (1-866-657-4273) provides temporary assistance in paying energy bills. No income guidelines.

NJ Lifeline Credit Program (1-800-792-9745) provides up to \$225 a year to people over 65 or disabled adults who meet income guidelines.

Sheila Scudder



YOUTH SAYS "MANY THANKS"



10-year-old Markita Campbell expresses thanks for attending Non-Violence Conference.

Editor's Note: Former Stella Wright Youth Markita Campbell, one of four youth to attend the First Non-Violence Conference, wrote this letter of thanks.

Dear Ms. Doris McCray,
I am writing to you about the program at The Queen of Angels Pillars of Ministry on October 20, 2001. I am really pleased about the program. It was one of the most helpful programs and I would love to go again. It

helped me with a problem that I couldn't handle myself. All of the ministry staff was very helpful and cooperative about their work of telling us about violence and victims. I wish they could have this program every other week on Saturdays for our community and youth. I am thankful for the program.

Sincerely,

Markita Campbell

WMCT PROGRAM IN ACTION

DENISE HOLSTON: "IT'S LIKE A NEW START"



Denise Holston shown here in the WMCT class.

Denise Holston lived in Stella Wright Homes for four years before moving into her permanent housing choice last year on Cedar Lane. When she read in the first edition of the Stella Wright Homes Newsletter about the opportunities available in

the Women and Minorities Construction Training Program, she didn't hesitate to pick up the phone to inquire about it.

Denise applied and completed all the steps for successful enrollment. In November she began spending her mornings learning all there was to know about the construction trades. She beams with enthusiasm when asked about the program. "I love it," she says. "It's like getting a new start in life."

She says she has worked in the past as a day care worker, but "I need a career that provides skills and a higher income." Denise says because of her family situation she really needs greater income flexibility to meet their needs. The

classes are informative, she says, and they bring the resource instructors to the class, "everyone that you need to build a housing unit—the whole team." The hands-on experience is key to learning, according to Denise. They also have physical education instruction to round out the training that is provided by the YMWCA of Newark.

Denise says she intends to work her way right through the program, including the four year internship that will follow. She has also set her sights on obtaining her GED and continuing her education at Essex County College.

"People don't know what they're missing by not taking advantage of opportunities like this," Denise concluded.



YOUTH IS FOCUSED ON EDUCATION

Eighteen-year-old Jaquetta Welfare received \$8,000 in scholarship funds that have allowed her to attend Montclair State University as a freshman. A graduate of Malcolm X Shabazz High School, Jaquetta competed successfully for a \$2,000 Newark Housing Authority scholarship and a \$6,000 Project Grad Scholarship. She is majoring in Business and wants to become an accountant. Her interest in accounting began when she took the course in high school. It was further solidified when she was able to intern at Deloitte & Touche, a major accounting firm, last summer. Jaquetta is living at home this year, however, she hopes to stay on campus as a sophomore.

Jaquetta and her mother lived in Stella Wright Homes for three years and have now moved into a townhouse as their temporary housing choice.

She says her hobbies are listening to music, shopping and enjoying the time she spends with her family. Her advice to other teens is to "stay focused and find ways to stay motivated."

SOUP TO KEEP YOU WARM

Black Bean Chicken Chili

INGREDIENTS:

- ⇒ 4 tablespoons butter
- ⇒ 1 red pepper, chopped
- ⇒ 1 green pepper, chopped
- ⇒ 1 large onion, chopped
- ⇒ 4 teaspoons minced garlic
- ⇒ 1 teaspoon salt
- ⇒ 1 teaspoon oregano
- ⇒ 1 tablespoon chili powder
- ⇒ 1/2 teaspoon crushed red pepper
- ⇒ Dash of cayenne pepper
- ⇒ 1 large or 2 small chickens, cooked
- ⇒ Four 16-oz. cans black beans with liquid
- ⇒ Two 16-oz cans stewed tomatoes
- ⇒ One 8-oz can tomato sauce
- ⇒ One 8-oz can tomato paste

PREPARATION

Melt butter in a large pot over medium-high heat. Sauté the red and green peppers and onion until tender. Add garlic and remaining seasonings.

Reduce heat and sauté for another couple of minutes. Add chicken meat to the pepper mixture and sauté for another two or three minutes. Add beans, stewed tomatoes, tomato sauce and tomato paste to the mixture.

Bring to a low boil. Reduce heat and simmer uncovered for about 30 minutes or until the chili thickens.

If you have Helpful Hints or Recipes you'd like to share with the readers, please forward them to Nellie Dixon, 57 Sussex Avenue, Newark NJ 07103. If we publish them, you will win a gift. Or Email her at ndixon@newarkha.org.





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CONGRATULATIONS

Six former Stella Wright Homes residents received certificates this month for having successfully completed the first two phases of the Women and Minorities Construction Training (WMCT) Program. Receiving the honors from Assistant Executive Director Karen Torian and Deputy Assistant Executive Director Morris Warner were:



Christopher Barnes is shown here in WMCT class.

- ◆ **Murad Holder**
- ◆ **Laurie Hill**
- ◆ **Tihinna Franklin**
- ◆ **Denise Holston**
- ◆ **Tina Kirk**
- ◆ **Christopher Barnes**

The participants
attended 40 hours of

course work with daily presentations from licensed plumbers, carpenters, laborers, and journeymen who described in great detail the kind of work each performed so that students could envision themselves in that job.

The WMCT program is sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Labor and presented by NHA in cooperation with the Mayor's Office of Employment and Training and Essex County Vocational Schools.

Watch your mailboxes for announcements of future training programs.